



File Code: 1950
Date: March 25, 2016

Dear Interested Party;

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the Road, Administrative and Recreation Site Maintenance project to analyze and disclose the effects of proposed infrastructure maintenance along roads, administrative sites and recreation sites that were affected by wildfires in 2015. This project was scoped in December of 2015. As a result of that scoping effort, in response to comments made by the public, an Environmental Assessment is being prepared. You are being notified of these proposals because you have expressed interest in projects on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests or responded to the scoping notice in December. I am inviting your comments on this proposal.

I have requested an Emergency Situation Determination (ESD) for the Road, Administrative and Recreation Site Maintenance project. Timely implementation is needed to ensure hazards to forest visitors and forest employees are reduced to the extent practicable. An ESD is granted by the Chief of the Forest Service and defined in 36 CFR 218.21(b):

Emergency situation determination. A situation on National Forest System (NFS) lands for which immediate implementation of a decision is necessary to achieve one or more of the following: Relief from hazards threatening human health and safety; mitigation of threats to natural resources on NFS or adjacent lands; avoiding a loss of commodity value sufficient to jeopardize the agency's ability to accomplish project objectives directly related to resource protection or restoration.

If the ESD is approved the decisions for these projects will not be subject to the predecisional objection process. The purpose of this comment period is to allow the public continued and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the responsible official. This may be your last opportunity to provide comments on this proposal prior to a decision being made.

The Proposed Action for 30-day Notice and Comment document details the purpose and need, proposed action as well as provides a summary of potential impacts that may result as required in the notice, comment and objection requirements in 36 CFR 218 and follows direction for comment periods set forth in FSH 1909.15.

Request for Comments

The proposed projects are activities implementing a land management plan and are subject to 36 CFR 218 regulations (subparts A and B). In accordance with 36 CFR 218.2, specific written comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider. It is



the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner.

To establish standing for objection, comments will be due 30 days after the legal notice is published in the newspaper of record (*The Lewiston Tribune*, Lewiston, Idaho). We anticipate the legal notice will be published in *The Lewiston Tribune* on Tuesday, March 29, 2016.

Comments may be mailed electronically to: comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us. Acceptable formats are MS Word, RTF, or PDF. The subject line must contain the name of the project for which you are submitting comments: *Road, Administrative and Recreation Site Maintenance Project*.

If you choose to comment, please include the following:

- (1) Your name, address, phone number, email address, and organization, if any;
- (2) Title of project; and,
- (3) Specific facts and relevant rationale you feel should be considered.


You may also mail or hand-deliver your comments to Cheryl Probert, Forest Supervisor, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests; 903 3rd Street; Kamiah, Idaho 83536. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for these proposed actions and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the commenter with standing to object to the draft decision.

Only those who respond to this request for comments will remain on the mailing list for this project. An objection period, if required, will follow the regulations found in 36 CFR 218.7. For objection eligibility (218.5), only those who have submitted timely, specific written comments during any designated opportunity for public comment may file an objection. Issues to be raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after a designated opportunity to comment [218.8(c)].

Project documents will be available electronically on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest's webpage at: <http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/projects/nezperceclearwater/landmanagement/projects>. If you have any questions please contact Zach Peterson, Forest Planner, at (208-935-4239) or by email zacharyapeterson@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



CHERYL F. PROBERT
Forest Supervisor